

SUFFOLK COUNTY VANDERBILT MUSEUM

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Minutes

A regular meeting of the Suffolk County Vanderbilt Museum Board of Trustees was held on June 6, 2002 in the Planetarium Lobby in Centerport, New York.

The following were in attendance:

Dr. Steven Gittelman - President  
Michael Broxmeyer - 2nd Vice President  
Dr. Anthony Pecorale - Treasurer  
Marjorie Kossoy Fuhrmann - Secretary  
Edward J. Hahn - Trustee  
Carl Luecke - Trustee  
R. Douglas Shaw - Trustee  
Susan Le Bow - Trustee  
Bertram E. Seides - Trustee  
William Macchione - Trustee  
Dr. William Rogers - Trustee  
J. Lance Mallamo - Executive Director  
Rita Beckman - Staff  
Russ Skado - Staff  
Mark McHugh - Staff  
Maryann Zakshevsky - Staff  
Lorraine Vernola - Staff  
Zachary Studenroth - Staff  
Bill Dieck - Staff  
Mike Carol - Staff  
Barbara Oster - Staff  
Leslie Tannen - Todd Shapiro Associates  
Ann Marie Pastore - Stenographer

Absent:

Gary C. Fischhoff  
Donna deLuca Periconi  
Robert LaBua

(Dr. Steven Gittelman called the meeting to order at 7:40 p.m.)

DR. GITTELMAN:

Good evening, everyone. This is a regular meeting of the Suffolk County Vanderbilt Museum Board of Trustees. Do we have a list of attendees?

MS. PASTORE:

Yes.

DR. GITTELMAN:

I want to thank you all for attending. Do any of you have any questions or any statements you would like to present to the Board of Trustees? Again, thank you for being here. As usual, you are a quiet group. How many times have I asked you to make comments, and how many times have you taken me up on that? All right, let's move to the first item on the agenda, which is approval of the minutes.

MS. FUHRMANN:

I move that the minutes be approved as submitted.

MS. LEBOW:

Second.

MS. FUHRMANN:

Thank you.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Comments? All in favor? Opposed? So approved. (Vote: 11/0/0/3 Absent: Mr. Fischhoff, Ms. Periconi & Mr. LaBua.)

Public Relations' Report.

MS. TANNEN:

Hi, good evening, everybody. Thank you, Mark. We have one video to show tonight starring Mark on the planetary alignment.

VIDEO PRESENTATION: 7:45 P.M. - 7:47 P.M.

4/22/02

WLNY-TV

Planetary Alignment

MS. TANNEN:

The report is primarily a lot of listings for the activities that go on here, but there was one very, I thought, excellent article in "Long Island Business News." Thank you to Steve and thank you to Lance for a very excellent interview. They managed to get in publicity for everything from A to Z philosophically in terms of what is trying to be accomplished here at the Vanderbilt.

As far as what's coming up in the future, of course the big push will be to publicize the upcoming gala on August 2. That's going to be the focus of our attention from this point on.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Okay. Any questions or comments? If not, thank you for the report. Education and Exhibits, Marge.

MS. FUHRMANN:

Okay, if I start to cough, I apologize in advance. Betsy is well into her analysis of the invertebrates. She is doing the fish. There are thousands of them to be analyzed. She has been working with the Development Committee in analyzing the mailing lists and developing new ones. She has been doing a lot of teaching.

Stephanie has also been doing a great deal of teaching. She is also doing curatorial management and maintenance of the bird collection.

Betsy and Kathy went to the tulip festival in Huntington, and we are passing around the plaque that they sent us as well as a letter of thanks. Three hundred and fifty children stopped by and made rainbow fish on popsicle sticks. We handed out seven hundred brochures regarding our summer programs and other activities at the Museum. These are both being passed around. I believe they are currently with Susan.

On May 7, Virginia Wessel and Kathy went to old Bethpage Village for the Nassau BOCES Conservation Day for fifth graders. The subject was a conservation day, and we brought marine specimens for Diversity Day. There were six classes of twenty-five each, a hundred and fifty students. We gave flyers to the teachers.

On May 28, our Artistry of Inquiry exhibit opened at the South Huntington School District. If we all look to our left on this side of the room, on the right for that side of the room, you will see the exhibit is behind us in the lobby. During the break we all invite you to take a look.

The numbers for May are definitely up. The Planetarium had 9,781 attending for a total of \$37,192.75 revenue. The Museum had 6,107 attending for 8,476 program hours for a total of \$35,417.50 in revenue.

The four weeks of camp are fully booked. July is very crowded with camp groups.

Cornell Cooperative Extension is also running a camp on site. They are running a marine camp, which is fully booked. We will be splitting revenue with them on their camp fifty-fifty.

Let's see what else we have here. Betsy and Zach met with the Harborfield Library. They will be running a cooperative library program this summer. The library will be giving a free pass to see the dinosaur exhibit at the Vanderbilt, including a 10 percent discount coupon for the gift shop. Twelve hundred children have signed up for their library summer reading program. All of these children will be receiving the free pass to the dinosaur exhibit and the 10 percent gift shop discount. They expect a very good bump in attendance from this program.

Currently when a school group signs up for a planetarium program, they receive a packet of information, which includes an instruction sheet. This instruction sheet is going to be updated. This update will include the following: There will be no whistles allowed in the dome. The Goto will no longer be allowed to be used as a coat rack. Children will no longer be allowed to put their feet in the air. No cell phones will be allowed. No one will be allowed in the well. No one will be allowed to chew gum. And believe it or not, it has become necessary to say that there will be no rocks allowed in the dome. I am passing out an exhibit of three rocks that have been confiscated from children that have been thrown at the walls of the dome. Any children with rocks being thrown at the walls of the dome will be ejected from the Planetarium dome with an appropriate adult for supervision. It's sad that we have to do this, but we will.

On attendance, we would like to point out that our change in "Let's Look Up," which is our pre-kindergarten/kindergarten program, is definitely working. In April of 2001, income generated was \$19,250. In April of 2002, income generated was \$27,066.

Currently Mark and staff are working on updating the educational programs for the school year 2002/2003. Dave has updated the "Planet Earth" program and has recreated a tornado with heavy thunderstorms, rain, and a cow that flies over the dome. He is redoing the journey through space to look at the solar system through the space probes. They will be using images from space by the space probes including the Hubble images that were just available as of yesterday. So they are keeping that exhibit very, very current. That will be available at the end of August.

At the end of June "Wonders of the Summer Sky" will begin. So they will be changing that for the summer.

Rainy weekends has currently eased the problem with telescope time. Also Warren, a volunteer, has helped in that he has set up telescopes in the rose garden. However, the long-term problem has not been resolved.

Florence has submitted a grant with the Lower Hudson Conference Conservation Treatment in association with the New York State Council of the Arts for the preservation of the tapestry in the organ room. She has selected a conservator, Costikyan. There's a letter going around from them.

During the AAM conference, which Florence and Lance recently attended, they were fortunate enough to bid and win a \$2,000 conservation service from these people. When they won the \$2,000, the company was gracious enough to gift them an additional \$3,000 of conservation services. So now they have a total of \$5,000. So Florence has been asking for an additional \$5,000 for a total restoration of \$10,000. Hopefully we will receive that in August - notification in August that that has been awarded. So we should be hearing something in August.

She has also applied for a National Endowment for the Humanities for a survey of the preservation need for archival collection and a proposed action project. She has applied for \$3,000.

As I said, she and Lance attended the AAM conference in Dallas, and she met with the Executive Director of the Preservation Society of Newport County who wants to establish a connection with all the estates that were once owned by the Vanderbilt's.

Also in our packets there is an order sheet for anyone who would like to order cassettes from the AAM concert.

About a year ago, she interviewed a woman who grew up in one of the tollhouses along the Vanderbilt Parkway. This woman is now giving her additional notes and photographs for our files. We're also trying to set up a meeting between her and the fellow that we also know who grew up in the tollhouses. Perhaps by meeting together over some tea or lunch, they can jar each other's memory. We don't even know if they know each other, but we're hoping that together they might be able to recollect other things about life in the tollhouses as children.

She has also met in the last month with a fellow who has magazines from the 1920's and 1930's that have articles on the Vanderbilt estate. Oh, excuse me, Freudian slip. He has articles on the Vanderbilt estate and he's sending us copies of that material. They include photographs of the collection of items that we currently have in storage, but we did not have provenance for but now we do.

In July, there is a writer coming from England who would be doing research of our archives for articles for a book she is writing on Consuela Vanderbilt, who was the sister of William K. Vanderbilt and the Duchess of Marlboro. She has located the libretto and music for the Vanderbilt Cup, which was a musical on Broadway in 1906. She is getting information on the copyright ownerships because we would like to put on a production of this musical in 2004 for the 100th anniversary of the first Vanderbilt Cup Race. This is being done through the National Endowment for the Arts, hopefully.

There is a meeting June 10 of LIMA at the Huntington Historical Society. It's not too late to register, if anyone would like to attend the meeting.

The letters and things are going around. That's about it, other than I have a resolution to introduce:

"I, Marjorie Fuhrmann, qualified Secretary of the Suffolk County Vanderbilt Museum, New York, Corporation subject to the not-for-profit corporation law of New York State and qualified for tax exempt status under the Federal Internal Revenue Code do hereby certify that the following resolution was adopted at a regular meeting of the Board of Trustees held on June 6, 2002." I should just read the resolution, shouldn't I? Skip that. "Resolved J. Lance Mallamo, as Executive Director of the Suffolk County Vanderbilt Museum, is hereby authorized and directed to file an application for funds from the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation in accordance with the provisions of Title IX of the Environmental Protection Act of 1993 or Title III of the Clean Water, Clean Air Bond Act of 1996 in an amount not to exceed \$500,000 and upon approval of said request to enter into and execute a project agreement with the State for such financial assistance to this Suffolk County Vanderbilt Museum for restoration of the seaplane hangar and a preservation covenant to the deed of the assisted property."

DR. PECORALE:  
Second.

DR. GITTELMAN:  
Discussion? No discussion. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? It carries unanimously. (Vote: 11/0/0/3 Absent: Mr. Fischhoff, Ms. Periconi & Mr. LaBua)

Anything else, Marge?

MS.FUHRMANN:  
That is the end of my report.

DR. PECORALE:  
Mr. President.

DR. GITTELMAN:  
Yes.

DR. PECORALE:  
I think it should be on the record that staff is to be complimented for their educational programs and the substantial increase in attendance. I'd like to make that as a motion on behalf of the Board of Trustees.

MS. FUHRMANN:

I would like to amend that motion to include increase in revenues. Not only has the attendance but the revenues based on those attendance records -

DR. PECORALE:

But the important thing is keeping the people coming. The revenues will come with the people coming. I think the fact that we have had substantial increase in the number of people attending our facility is to be complimented for the staff and for our Executive Director as well.

DR. GITTELMAN:

I have a second. I have a point of discussion. It's not just the revenue, it's not the number of people, and it's not just the quality of the programs. It's the way that people leave and the impression they're leaving with. I can tell you. People are leaving here and the feedback that I get - and I get a lot of feedback as John the Gardener. Let me tell you, John hears a lot of good stuff. We have much to be proud of and much to be thankful for from the staff. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? It carries unanimously. (Vote: 11/0/0/3 Absent: Mr. Fischhoff, Ms. Periconi & Mr. LaBua.)

We will be moving to the Development Committee, Carl, Michael and Zach.

MR. BROXMEYER:

The Development Committee will be meeting biweekly at this point until the "Cocktails with Gershwin" event on August 2 to ensure that everything comes off correctly, planning goes in order, everything is organized and the event is a success.

I'm sure many of you know that the "save-the-date" notices went out already. We have received a good response so far. I believe the Museum has received some phone calls already. I know a lot of people that got "save-the-dates" from me were very pleased with what they received.

Many of you received calls today from Carl and I trying to finalize the invitation list. If you have any further revisions, please send them over to myself or to Zach. The invitations will be going out next week. If anyone would prefer to send the invitations themselves and include a personal note, that's what I'm doing. Please tell Zach he could send you the invitations preaddressed so all you have to do is slip in your note, put on a stamp, and send them out.

The next Development meeting will be on June 14th at ten o'clock in my office. Anyone is welcome to attend. Pretty much we will be refining everything for the event and making sure it goes off very well. Does anyone have any questions?

MS. LEBOW:

Did you make any allowances for a rain date or bad weather?

MR. BROXMEYER:

No, we're discussing renting a tent or having provisions for renting a tent, if that was to happen.

MS. LEBOW:

Are you using the same caterers as you did the last time?

MR. BROXMEYER:

Actually, Zach contacted several caterers and worked out a system where they would be on a preferred list for future events. They have all agreed to donate different food stations for the event so our cost for food will be zero.

MS. LEBOW:

Terrific.

DR. GITTELMAN:

When you called me today, I got right on the phone, spoke to Fleet Bank and they have committed \$5,000.

MR. BROXMEYER:

Great.

DR. GITTELMAN:

But we are in discussions for a greater amount.

MR. BROXMEYER:

That's fantastic. Thank you.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Comments or questions? Thank you for that report. Finance Committee, Tony.

DR. PECORALE:

Each Trustee has a copy of the Treasurer's Report with actuals through April of this year. May is in the process, and you'll receive it shortly. As indicated earlier, our admissions are up. As you can see from the April, the endowment was brought up to date. We are solvent. I'd like to ask that the Treasurer's Report be accepted as presented. I'd be happy to answer any questions that anyone might have.

DR. GITTELMAN:

I have a motion. Do I have a second?

MR. LUECKE:

Second.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Discussion? If there is no discussion, are you all in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? Motion passes unanimously. (11/0/0/3 Absent: Mr. Fischhoff, Ms. Periconi & Mr. LaBua)

DR. PECORALE:

The financial statement has been sent to each of the Trustees. This is the financial statement from 2001. I'd like to ask that the Board adopt the 2001 financial statement as reviewed.

DR. GITTELMAN:

That's the audited statement.

DR. PECORALE:

That's correct.

DR. GITTELMAN:  
Is there a second?

MR. MACCHIONE:  
Second.

DR. GITTELMAN:  
Discussion? All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? Motion passes unanimously.  
(Vote: 11/0/0/3 Absent: Mr. Fischhoff, Ms. Periconi & Mr. LaBua.)

DR. PECORALE:  
We are also required to present our 2003 Operating Budget to the County offices, as well as to the County Legislature. It has been sent out, and copies of it are available for each member of the Trustees to review. We have pretty much reviewed all of the sections. We have a small increase for 2003. We would like to recommend that the Board adopt the 2003 Operating Budget for next year so that it can be sent on to the appropriate authorities.

DR. GITTELMAN:  
I have a motion. Do I have a second?

MS. FUHRMANN:  
Second.

DR. GITTELMAN:  
Discussion? If there is no discussion, all in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? Motion carries unanimously. (Vote: 11/0/0/3 Absent: Mr. Fischhoff, Ms. Periconi & Mr. LaBua)

DR. PECORALE:  
I have one more piece of business. We would like to adopt a fee structure for combination tickets here at the Museum. For any two of our attractions, we're recommending a fee of \$10. For all three attractions, which would be the dinosaur exhibit, the planetarium and of course the mansion, it would be \$12. So a combination ticket for any two would be \$10, we're recommending, and for all three, \$12.

DR. GITTELMAN:  
I have a motion.

MR. LUECKE:  
Second.

DR. GITTELMAN:  
I have a second. Discussion? If there is no discussion, all in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? Motion carries unanimously. (Vote: 11/0/0/3 Absent: Mr. Fischhoff, Ms. Periconi & Mr. LaBua)

DR. PECORALE:  
That's the end of my report.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Personnel Committee, Gary Fischhoff is not here. Any issues?

MS. MALLAMO:

We had a meeting yesterday with Gary and Marjorie by telephone. We reviewed some adjustments for part-time employees including establishing a salary for Admission's Supervisor. This evolves out of the recommendation of the County audit done last year. We had had that position, but we required a number of new staff promotions to that post. We needed to adjust the salary. So I have that in front of me. I can pass this out. These adjustments cover all employees that are covered by what we call a step system. This was established by the Board several years ago, the step system. A number of part-time employees in these categories upon their anniversary date get an automatic adjustment to their salary, and that's been working well. We did look at adjusting the greeter to salary, because we felt it was too low. We were having a very hard time getting people for that. There is a lot of responsibility and they are front line employees.

MR. LUECKE:

Do the part-time people receive benefits?

MR. MALLAMO:

No. They get a limited benefit based on the number of hours they work, which is a contribution to certain days off and a retirement contribution.

MS. FUHRMANN:

Pension contribution.

MR. MALLAMO:

Pension contribution, but very few really qualify for that.

MR. LUECKE:

With no health benefits.

MR. MALLAMO:

No health benefits.

DR. PECORALE:

Are you suggesting that the security be increased to eight, nine, ten and eleven?

MR. MALLAMO:

No, things are actually - the current fees and that system has been working well because there is a step system in place. People are working through that system, so they are getting increases as they come up. There hasn't actually been an adjustment there.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Actually there are only two selected adjustments.

MR. MALLAMO:

Two adjustments.

DR. PECORALE:

We do reflect these in the budget for next year.

MR. MALLAMO:  
Yes.

DR. PECORALE:  
I just wanted to make sure that everyone understood that this is reflected in the budget that we adopted.

MR. MALLAMO:  
As well as we anticipate hiring a number of new part-time employees associated with the dinosaur exhibit.

DR. PECORALE:  
Do we need a motion for this?

MR. MALLAMO:  
No, just implement this. We will be starting performance evaluations next week of staff members. We will be having another Personnel Committee meeting before the next Board meeting.

DR. GITTELMAN:  
Any other comments or questions regarding personnel? Doug Shaw, Membership Committee.

MR. SHAW:  
Wendy's very effective front-line work at recruiting individual and family members as part of the admission's program has continued to be successful. You can see that our numbers are fairly current with our projections for the year. Zach has obtained lists from the Huntington Chamber of Commerce which we will be working with in order to develop and in order to push new business membership, perhaps offering them incentives and exploring ways to use the Normandy Manor to make the site more attractive not only to business members but also to members here from the Centerport community. We have looked at the membership list and seen that - I was surprised at the low level of subscription by people who actually live within shouting distance of the Museum. So we have been talking about ways to build that.

Next week just over 200 renewal letters will go in the mail. Last year at this time is when Wendy really started pushing membership, and now we're starting to see the mail build-up and the challenges to get all those people to come back and buy in for another year. That's the Membership Report.

DR. GITTELMAN:  
Questions or comments?

MS. FUHRMANN:  
I have a comment.

DR. GITTELMAN:  
Marge.

MS. FUHRMANN:

I just got my renewal letter in the mail, and I have to say it's very nicely worded this year. It really makes you want to come back. That's all.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Any additional comments? If not, we'll move on to Ed Hahn, Dinosaur Committee.

MR. HAHN:

The Dinosaur Committee met early this evening. We covered several areas. The first item was the temporary exhibit to be housed in the butler building. The butler building is up and just about running adjacent to the planetarium. The T-Rex is outside the building. In fact, it did its job quite well in terrorizing one of the Trustees.

Repairs are being made to several of the exhibits so that they will be ready for the opening of the exhibit itself, which is anticipated to be by July 1.

The T-Rex which is on the outside of the butler building just as you're about to go into building, there is going to be a fence there which will be a replica of the fence in the movie "Jurassic Park," which was, I guess, a cable fence that was electrified. I don't think it will be electrified for this exhibit.

MR. MALLAMO:

It may be.

MR. HAHN:

We'll have to see how it goes, I guess.

Regarding the permanent exhibit in the seaplane hangar, the construction is beginning to get underway. One phase is the access roads and the waterfront to the seaplane hangar, which the access roads are necessary for the construction of the seaplane hangar to begin. I understand that the access roads are in the process beginning construction as we speak now and that the construction of the seaplane hangar itself is anticipated to begin within the next twelve months.

Lance has been working on the inquiry-based software for the exhibit. He has been in touch with a number of companies with respect to that and has also looked into hooking up websites to the exhibit as well.

The only other issue remaining is resolving outstanding questions and issues with NYIT regarding the exhibit at their Central Islip campus. The Dinosaur Committee will be meeting prior to the next Trustee meeting to discuss that and go over in depth exactly where we are and how we can resolve those remaining questions. That concludes my report.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Any comments or questions? Thank you for that report. Lance, Director's Report.

MR. MALLAMO:

As Marjorie indicated, Florence and I went to the AAM meeting in Dallas. To hold costs down this year, only two staff members went. We had hoped to send more people, but we're trying to restrict our financial resources, so we had worked it out between the two of us. We had worked our program in advance, and I think we

covered just about the entire program over the three or four days of the conference between the two of us. We really got every workshop covered.

I actually went two days ahead. On Saturday and Sunday I attended one day intensive workshops. The first day was on museum surveys and what and what not to do in creating a survey. We haven't done a survey here in some time, and it's something we want to do this summer. I think that will be very helpful to us in that regard.

I also took for Zach a corporate sponsorship workshop, which was very well received. That was given by the former corporate affairs person - community affairs of Chase Bank. Of course, I asked her what do you do when one of your banks doesn't contribute when you ask them to. She said, well, get a new bank. That gave us the ammunition to work with and to solicit our operating bank, Chase, for a Gershwin contribution this year. We're going to try her strategy.

I also took the time to visit a number of Dallas museums, the Dallas Planetarium, the Dallas Science Center, the Dallas Women's Museum, the Dallas Museum of Natural History and their brand new dinosaur exhibit, and the sixth floor museum. I have to tell you I was much more impressed with our facilities at the Vanderbilt Museum. I think we can be very proud of the museum we have here, very, very high standard. I expected a lot more in what I saw out there. I think maybe our standards here in New York are high anyway, but for a suburban museum, I think we do a very wonderful job here. I was very proud of what the staff accomplishes here.

We are very well prepared for summer right now. Our grounds' crew in addition to all the effort they put in in painting the butler building and getting the dinosaur exhibit ready have managed to keep the lawns trim and working with the master gardeners in supplementing their activities, getting the gardens and pools established. We're really looking very good for the summer months. I think we look better than we ever have looked.

We are going to try and experiment this summer with selling house tour tickets directly at the mansion so that the people who don't want to walk all the way down to the Planetarium can simply buy a house tour ticket or to get those who only buy a grounds pass here and get down to the house and find that they want to buy a house tour ticket don't have to walk all the way back to the Planetarium. This will allow us to put a small mansion oriented gift shop down in the area where the money will be collected at that location.

We're also following up on the World's Fair theme again this year. Florence has planned some new exhibit items down there. In fact, just in the past couple of days, she found a direct connection where the World's Fair had approached William Vanderbilt for specimens from the Hall of Fishes to go into the New York World's Fair. He declined to do that and instead urged them to come out to Centerport to see his museum. The mere fact that he had been asked with a specific collection in mind shows the esteem for which that collection was held even in 1937. So we will be having a copy of those letters out on the breakfast table in the mansion.

Our Capital Budget was reviewed by the Parks Legislative Committee last week. In general, I think with few exceptions, they supported the budget as proposed by the County Executive. Budget Review did recommend moving up the funding for the Goto projector instead of spreading it over two years to consolidate it into one year,

the one year being next year. We agreed with that. It was also suggested by the Chairperson, Legislator Ginny Fields, that we hold a Park Committee meeting in two or three months focused solely on Vanderbilt issues including our endowment, the Capital Budget and any other needs of the museum. I told her that we would welcome that opportunity, so we will begin planning that. I will be in contact with her office to arrange that meeting.

Our acquisition of the Normandy Manor property we hope will occur within the next one or two weeks. It's my understanding the environmental remediation that needed to be done is now complete. The checks have been ordered from the County to affect the closing. I have also been in touch with the current owner who says he is very anxious to turn the keys over to us. We're looking forward to that.

You will notice we have some new changes to the lobby here. The exhibit that used to be over here got moved over to this area of here to affect the changes that we're planning over here to accommodate a café. We have had the Department of Public Works in to look at that as well as a new door that we will be putting out eventually to the dinosaur exhibit. That is in the planning phase right now. We expect to receive approval in the very near future.

The other issue I would like to advise you in is we're going to try a new staff-training program. One of the items that came up in Dallas that sounded very typical, in fact someone said, all of you museum directors are surprised. You hire new employees, you give them an hour of training, put them at the front desk, and then when you start getting complaints, you seem surprised. He said an hour of training is not enough. You have to do a more competent job.

We're going to establish and we are working on -- we have a committee of staff members already working very hard on this. We anticipate implementing this by next month, a three-day training program. The Trustees are invited to participate in any or all of the programs. This will be not only for new employees that come to the Museum but also existing employees. So everyone is going to go through this program. We are going to be indoctrinated, the mission of the Museum, the history of Vanderbilt and the Vanderbilt estate. They will be treated to a viewing of "America's Castles" television program on the property. They will be taking a standard house tour and a Living History House Tour, a tour of the grounds, the Hall of Fishes, and the Memorial Wing. All our different curators are going to coordinate these activities. They will be coming to a Planetarium show or shows courtesy of the Planetarium staff. They will be taking part in an educational program. They will receive visitor service training and appropriate behavior to meet museum standards in visitor service. They will have a course in diversity training, museum policies and procedures, what to do in an emergency, our emergency action plan, as well as our disaster plan.

I would like to thank all the different departments that are working on this. We are getting staff input on what they think the needs of such training are. Just in the few sessions that we had, I have been surprised by many of the issues that came up. So we're very excited about this. We are hopeful that it's going to be a whole new beginning for the Vanderbilt and resolve a lot of outstanding issues that have plagued us for a number of years. Yes, Marjorie.

MS. FUHRMANN:

Do you know when you're going to be doing this?

MR. MALLAMO:

Well, we anticipate starting this in late June, early July. I am hopeful that we will be able to secure some assistance from Suffolk County officials because I know there are certain personnel programs that the County provides to its employees. We're approaching the County Labor Department to see if we can secure some of those issues, notably the diversity training issue and employee behavior.

MS. FUHRMANN:

Will the Trustees be notified?

MR. MALLAMO:

Yes, absolutely.

MS. FUHRMANN:

Thank you

MR. MALLAMO:

So please feel free. As I said, this will be a three-day program. They may not be three consecutive days. We envision giving this training program once a month, each month. As new employees come on, they will take the one day of training and then the following month take the other day because we're finding it's going to be difficult to close down for three days to do this all at one time. We are looking now to probably do it in stages but I think this is -

MS. FUHRMANN:

On Monday?

MR. MALLAMO:

Probably on Mondays when we're closed. We think that this is something that is long overdue, and I hope you agree. That's my report.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Questions? Comments? If there are none, it's up to me. I had the very unusual pleasure of stepping out of my role as President of the Board and stepping into the role as daddy. My daughter had her bas mitzvah here on Saturday night. It was wonderful. The potential of this facility for those types of uses has never been more clear to me. Although there was a lot of staff, whether they know it or not, they were working on a fee-paid basis because I did get a substantial bill from the Museum for services rendered. Everybody was so wonderful. I guess the message that I need to convey to you is that they were wonderful. They made life for me and my family very special on that day. They gave me very special memories.

There was one comment, and I'm not going to say who said it, but there were three staff members in a circle and someone said, "We're all family." I had to turn to them and say that in thirteen years, that's probably the most important comment that I have heard since I became a Trustee. They made the evening so special. They cared. Living History - I tried to keep Lance's acting purely as a guest; stay as a guest, Lance.

MR. MALLAMO:

It's very hard to do when the electricity goes out.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Well, when the electricity fails and you're standing there, everything is quiet, and the lights go out, you do get a little panic-stricken, I must admit. Everybody recovered beautifully. It was special. It really was. It was just a wonderful evening. I can't thank everybody enough for creating the place in which we had the party. I think it was Marge who came to me and said, "This is all so beautiful." I think you were pointing to everything in the tent. "Yes," I said, "But look at the envelope. Look at what surrounds it." It was wonderful because we used, for the first time, the gardens along the sides. For years they have been under development, and they weren't fully planted but it didn't matter.

MS. FUHRMANN:

No, it was just gorgeous.

DR. GITTELMAN:

It was just wonderful. It was like we really were here and the place was alive. I remember three years ago walking through there and saying I can't go there because the poison ivy had overcome it. There is no Capital Project for that, folks. That's pure sweat equity, pure volunteer equity, pure staff equity, pure Lance's leadership, and pure staff cooperation. It didn't happen overnight. There is no big Capital Project that went into it. It's just plain old wonderful. Lance has some fabulous plans for advancing it over the next couple of years where there is actually some Capital money to be used for some of the components. This place gets more gorgeous all the time. Daddy was very proud of both his daughter and his second home. I want to thank you all for being part of making this place so wonderful. That's my report.

DR. ROGERS:

I want to thank you for inviting us. I tried to date Mrs. Vanderbilt, but she never got back to me.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Mrs. Vanderbilt didn't get back to you.

MS. FUHRMANN:

I got -- I tried to talk Mr. Vanderbilt into going out but he wouldn't either.

DR. GITTELMAN:

He wouldn't either. They all stayed in character. They were wonderful. On my invitation the invitation was from Mr. and Mrs. Vanderbilt. I did have one recipient say it was rather pretentious that I would have to get a Vanderbilt to do the inviting. If I wouldn't do it under my own name, then what's wrong with me? I explained that Mr. Vanderbilt has been dead for half a century.

Is there any unfinished business?

MS. FUHRMANN:

One little thing that I neglected to mention, that I should. The gift of \$3,000 in conservation was a result of Lance placing a silent auction bid for \$2,000 worth of conservation that won that silent auction.

MR. MALLAMO:

Right. My bid was \$600 -

MS. FUHRMANN:  
I was just about to say that.

MR. MALLAMO:  
-- for a \$2,000 --

MS. FUHRMANN:  
He placed a bid of \$600 which won \$2,000 which resulted in us getting \$500 -

MR. MALLAMO:  
It was \$5,000.

MS. FUHRMANN:  
Yes, \$5,000, excuse me. So that was a wonderful return on this \$600 bid.

MS. LEBOW:  
He's a good shopper.

DR. GITTELMAN:  
Investment council, no questions about it.

MS. FUHRMANN:  
I neglected to mention that before.

DR. GITTELMAN:  
Any unfinished business? Any new business? We have not established a need for an executive session. Is there a need?

MS. FUHRMANN:  
I move to adjourn.

MS. LEBOW:  
Second.

DR. GITTELMAN:  
All in favor? Opposed? We are so adjourned. (Vote: 11/0/0/3 Absent: Mr. Fischhoff, Ms. Periconi & Mr. LaBua.)

(Dr. Steven Gittelman adjourned the meeting at 8:40 p.m.)

SG/ap

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